

Child Impact Statement for:

Promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system and to reduce recidivism

CIS ID#: 45hg8kzo

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CIS authors assessing their own effort

The impact on children directly or indirectly affected by the effort will be:

Extremely Positive

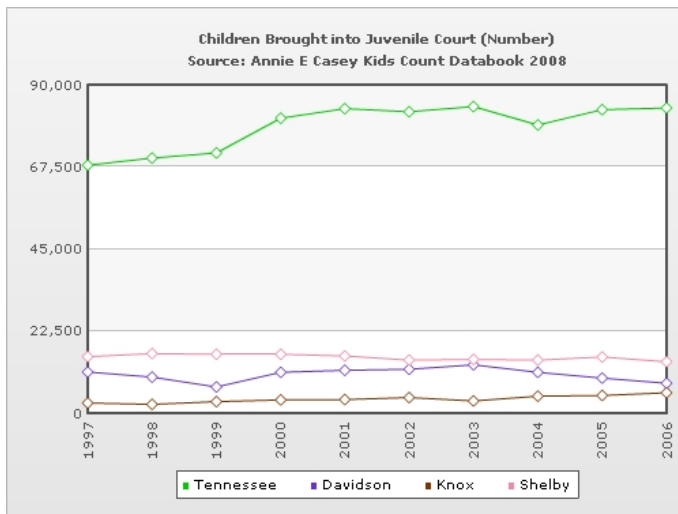
The effort will create or greatly enhance resources, services, or facilities that provide access to or protection of assets children need in order to prosper.



Evaluation

Concerns:

Due to a high level of juvenile crime, Shelby County Government, under the oversight of the local JABG State Advisory Board Membership, proposed a comprehensive approach to effectively address local juvenile accountability (system and offender) issues and underlying causes. The comprehensive approach of Shelby County's proposal will develop and expand partnerships to more effectively address local problems and underlying causes to identify solutions, create and enhance resources, increase accountability, and decrease future delinquency.

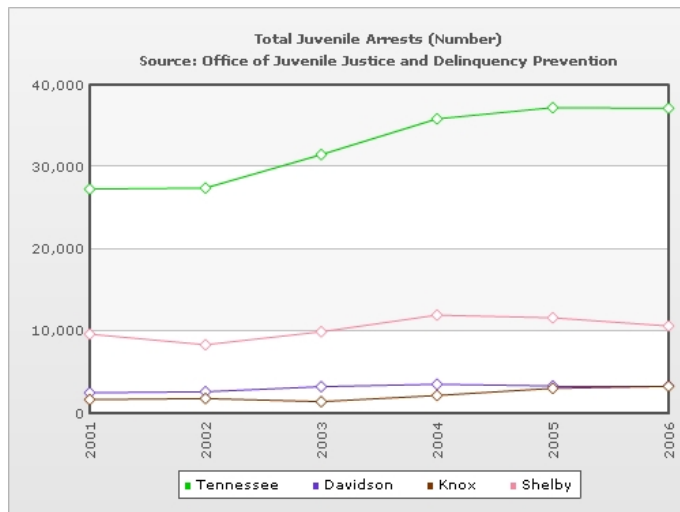


Justification:

Juvenile Court's statistics correspond to fluctuating local, state, and national trends. The Court's data reveals a slight decrease in the number of total juvenile complaints in 2008, down 3.06%. Conversely, serious and violent offenses increased from 1,116 in 2007 to 1,241 in 2008, up 11.2%. A total of 12,128 delinquency cases came to the attention of the Court in 2008; a decrease of 1.75% from 12,344 in 2007. The Court recorded a decrease in juveniles charged with Murder-1st Degree, 12 in 2007 to 5 in 2008, down 58.3%. Incidents of Aggravated Robbery declined from 258 in 2007 to 225 in 2008; reflecting a 12.8% decrease. Incidents of Aggravated Assault increased from 278 in 2007 to 291 in 2008, up 4.7%. Incidents of Aggravated Burglary increased sharply from 391 in 2007 to 503 in 2008 representing a 28.6% increase. Carjacking also reveals a dramatic increase from 18 in 2007 to 43 in 2008, up 138.9%.

During 2007, the Court handled a total of 18,771 children's cases - 12,344 delinquent, 1,678 unruly and runaway, 3,903 dependent and neglected 736 other-custody cases, and 110 traffic offenses. This Court joins others across the nation in dealing with the challenge of an ever-increasing number of youth presenting to the court on unruly or delinquent offenses with unmet mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.



**Goals:**

To reduce juvenile delinquency, increase accountability within the juvenile justice system and for establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.

Actions:

The population served will include male and female juvenile delinquents and youth of multiple municipalities/towns that together form Shelby County, TN. The program will target youth from Memphis, Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, Lakeland and Millington of Shelby County. All programs of this proposal will address minority youth and will reflect consistency with mandatory JABG Purpose Areas as all partnering agencies are enabled to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reduce recidivism.

Increase and continue to provide child / parent counseling/assistance and referrals to professional agencies or support groups for the various issues of concern that include drugs, behavior, violence, truancy, gangs, running away; and assistance /technical support for parents of runaway children; law enforcement agencies and Juvenile Courts. A direct result of this goal should show 5% to 7% increase in contacts during the 2009-2010 timeframe.

Benefits:

To increase the number and percent of youth to complete accountability program successfully. To increase the number of youth referrals across departments, organizations, agencies or units. To increase program participation of youth. Increase number and percent of youth assigned to alternatives to detention



Research

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The neighborhood is an extremely important environment, because it greatly influences child and youth development. Social conditions of a neighborhood, such as crime and physical disorder, tend to occur along with negative child impacts, such as infant mortality, low birth weight, juvenile delinquency, high school dropout, and child abuse and neglect. Children and adolescents living in neighborhoods characterized by crime or disorganization are also more likely to become victims of violent crime and to commit acts of violence.

Law enforcement personnel and/or agencies will be required to assist in establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles.

